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TROOP SHIPS LEAVE FRANCE WITH 30,000

Largest Homeward Movement of Men Yet Announced By War Department.

30TH TO RETURN IN MARCH

Over 200,000 Men Scheduled to Come Back During Each of Next Four Months—Regulars Not to Return.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The largest homeward movement of troops since the breaking up of the American overseas army started last November was announced by the war department in reporting the departure from French ports of 18 troop ships with nearly 30,000 officers and men aboard. The announcement of the movement was made coincidentally with the issuance of a statement that all divisions in France except those of the regular army would be returned as shipping becomes available.

Among the transports listed as having sailed were the Aquitania and Great Northern, each with more than 5,000 soldiers aboard. The organizations which have sailed include most of the units of the 92nd (negro) national army division, important units from the 87th (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama) national army divisions and a score of aero squadrons.

The Aquitania has these units of the 92nd: 317th train headquarters, the military police, the 317th ammunition train complete and the 366th infantry complete. She also carries the second corps artillery park, a casual company of Illinois troops, 60 casual officers, three convalescent detachments and 57 naval officers.

On the Great Northern, due at New York March 1, are the field and staff, headquarters and supply company, medical detachment and batteries A, B, C and D of the 349th field artillery of the 92nd. The ship also carries a casual company of negro troops for Georgia, eight convalescent detachments and 15 casual officers.

The transport Martha Washington, due at Newport News March 5, has the 49th regiment coast artillery, and the field and staff headquarters company, batteries A, B, C, E, and F and several other detachments from each of the 335th and 336th regiments of artillery of the 87th division and 30 casual officers.

The transport Niagara, due at New York February 28, has on board casual companies of Georgia, Washington, California, Maine and Michigan troops; detachments of the 312th trench motor battery and of the 11th field artillery brigade, and 25 casual officers.

The transport Sobral is due at New York February 27, with the first and second battalion headquarters, sanitary and ordnance detachments, supply and machine gun companies, and companies A, B, C, D, E and F, of the 367th infantry; 349th machine gun battalion complete, and casual companies of New York, Illinois, Ohio troops.

The transport Maul, due at New York February 28, carries the 350th field artillery complete with the exception of 43 officers, casual companies from New York, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Kansas, and eight convalescent detachments.

The Montclair, West Coast, and West Port also were announced as having sailed with a few casuals each.

DIVISIONS TO BE SENT HOME IN ORDER THEY WENT OVER

Washington, Feb. 27.—General Pershing has notified the war department that divisions now in the American expeditionary forces excepting those with regular army designations would be returned to the United States in the order of the arrival of their respective divisional headquarters in France. This was interpreted as meaning that all divisions except the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh, would be returned as shipping was available.

Combat troops not assigned to divisions will be returned in the order

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GLASS ASKS PEOPLE TO PAY TAXES CHEERFULLY

Says Luxury, Income, War and Excess Profits Taxes Are Price of Victory.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Secretary Glass appealed to the American people to pay cheerfully the higher war taxes which went into effect with the signature by President Wilson of the new revenue bill. He referred to it as a "victory tax" to bear the cost of a war which has brought "the ineffable boon of peace."

Taxes which become operative at once include those on liquor, tobacco, soft drinks, so-called luxuries such as automobiles, pianos, candy, chewing gum, sporting goods and slot machines; capital stock of corporations, brokers, amusement places, taxicabs and other special businesses.

The revenue bureau's machinery already had been put into operation of the filing of returns on March 15, on incomes, excess profits and war profits and the collection of the first 25 per cent installment payment on that date.

Secretary Glass' appeal, asserting that "the war must be paid for," said:

"It is a shallow kind of patriotism that does not burn brightly in time of peace as well as in time of war. It is a poor sort of patriot who would shirk the duty he steadfastly performed a year ago.

"The income tax last year was a liberty tax. This year it is a victory tax, but the purposes of each are the same, to defray the cost of a world's war that has brought to the United States and its associates the ineffable boon of peace.

"The government therefore appeals to that higher form of patriotism which is not dependent upon the shouting and the tumult to cooperate in the collection of taxes this year with the same splendid spirit of last year."

ARCTIC EXPLORER SAFE ON COAST OF ALASKA

Storkersen Left Last March on a Drifting Ice Cake For Siberia.

Ottawa, Feb. 27.—The safe arrival on the north coast of Alaska, on November 7 last of Storker Storkersen, the Arctic explorer, and his four companions was announced in a dispatch from him forwarded from Fort Yukon to the Canadian department of naval service.

The explorer set out from the north coast of Alaska in March, 1918, to drift westward on an ice cake across the polar basin on the theory that the currents would land him on the coast of Siberia. It appears from his dispatches that the ice cake on which his party camped merely carried them around in what might be considered a huge eddy.

In addition to upsetting the theory common among geographers and polar authorities, of a westward current, Storkersen reported his trip had resulted in the taking of important deep sea soundings.

The work carried out by Storkersen and his party was planned by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, who intended to lead the party personally, but was prevented by illness.

The party started on March 15, 1918, from Cross Island, on the north coast of Alaska. At the outset it consisted of nine whites and four Eskimos, with eight sledges. After about two weeks of travel Storkersen sent back four of the men and three sledges and a short time later sent back three more sledges with all except four of the men.

The party then established camp on the ice and prepared for a trip which was expected to have lasted all winter. Virtually without provisions, they subsisted comfortably throughout the trip on seals and polar bears which were shot.

The drift began at about 73 degrees north latitude and 146 degrees west longitude. The northwesterly point reached, Storkersen reported, was 74 degrees north latitude and 152 degrees west longitude, while the most easterly point reached was 144 1-2 degrees west longitude.

SLIGHT EARTHQUAKE SHOWN

San Francisco, Feb. 27.—A slight earthquake was felt here at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. No damage was reported.

PRESIDENT WILSON STRONG FOR LEAGUE

Wants Speedy Conclusion of Peace Treaty; Talks "Right Out in Court."

WON'T ADDRESS CONGRESS

Holds "Free and Frank" Discussion With Newspaper Men and Gives Out His Views on Proposed League.

Washington, Feb. 27.—President Wilson desires conclusion of a peace treaty as speedily as consistent with the great question involved and, except for adjustment of territorial differences, he believes a great part of the work is approaching final form.

It was learned that the amendment to the proposed constitution of the league of nations which the President intends to suggest upon his return to Paris will deal with measures to be used by the league in enforcing territorial decrees.

This was learned by newspaper correspondents with whom the President had a free and frank discussion of his work at Paris and the legislative session late today after he had spent two hours conferring with administration leaders at the capitol. It was the first time the correspondents in Washington had been invited to see the President in several years.

Further important expressions of opinion on the league of nations came today from President Wilson in his conferences at the capitol, from Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, chairman of the foreign relations committee, in an address to the senate, and from senators and representatives who attended the dinner last night at the White House.

President Wilson, in discussing the league with members of congress and also at a conference with newspaper correspondents, expressed confidence in the success of the plan. He also let it be known that he had every expectation of the conclusion of peace within a few months and in this connection said that territorial adjustments presented the most delicate problem remaining. Work on all other questions, he stated, is rapidly nearing completion by the commissions appointed to handle it.

The President was emphatic in expressing his belief that in no particular did the proposed constitution of the league conflict with the American constitution or with the Monroe doctrine. He also said he had in mind only one amendment, designed to clarify the clause dealing with enforcement of territorial decrees, and reiterated that he would not address congress before it adjourned and would not ask any formal expression from the senate on the league.

Reluctant to Reopen Covenant.

Mr. Wilson was said to have indicated that he was reluctant to reopen the league constitution before the peace conference.

He was representing as feeling that with the document approved unanimously by 14 powers after many weeks' deliberation, it would be inadvisable to reopen the negotiations unless changes proposed were fundamental. The change he has in mind was not so classed by the executive.

Senator Hitchcock, in addressing the senate in vigorous support of the league, replied to recent critics of the plan. He declared that the alternatives before the world were peace with the league or war and preparations for war without it; the internationalism of nations or that of "the socialist, the anarchist and the bolshevist." The senator flatly denied that the league violates either the Monroe doctrine or the principles enunciated by Washington and charged opponents with magnifying what they regard as dangerous and with "conjuring up a scarecrow."

To Resume Debate Today.

Senate debate will be resumed tomorrow, with addresses by Republican Leader Lodge and Senator Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, Republicans.

Today Senator Owen, of Oklahoma Democrat, introduced a resolution advocating amendments of the league to definitely declare that American sovereignty is not affected

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ELMORE EVANS SHOT BY UNKNOWN PARTY

Aged Man Badly Though Not Dangerously Wounded in Brooklyn Last Night.

A SHOT GUN WAS USED

Bloodhounds Strike Trail and Police Have Clues Though No Arrests Have Been Made When The News Goes to Press

Elmore Evans, well-to-do farmer living about four miles from this city, was shot and badly wounded about 9:30 o'clock last night near the cotton mill water tank in Brooklyn by an unknown assailant. A shot gun was the weapon used and the lead struck Evans in the side, face and hands. Although badly wounded, information comes to The News that his condition is not considered dangerous.

Evans was shot, according to evidence gathered by the police, as he left a house in Brooklyn where he had been visiting, and the police are of the opinion that his assailant was secreted under the next house. Bloodhounds were carried to the scene soon after the shooting and they struck a trail, though there had been so many people on the scene that little importance was attached to the work of the hounds. Other clues are being ferreted out by the police, and while no arrests have been made at the time The News goes to press, it is not unlikely that some will be made before night.

OTHER ARRESTS MADE IN NAVAL BRIBERY CASE

Five Naval Men Charged With Receiving Money to Assign Men to Shore Duty.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Arrest of two additional naval reservists in connection with the investigation of charges of bribery in the third naval district was announced by Secretary Daniels. This makes a total of five men now held. They are: Lieuts. Benjamin S. Davis and Benoit James Ellert; Ensign Paul Beck and Chief Boatstains Lloyd G. Casey and Frederick A. Jones.

A statement issued by Secretary Daniels said Davis was believed to have received \$1,000 for enrolling men in the naval service and that Ellert was believed to have received \$20,000 in addition to a large number of presents for having secured assignments of applicants for such duties as would enable them to continue their business in civil life.

The secretary said evidence in possession of the department showed that Casey received a total of about \$3,000 and valuable presents for placing several enlisted men on shore duty, while Ensign Beck was alleged to have received \$1,000 and a number of presents for obtaining the assignment of applicants "to safe berths on shore."

The secretary's statement added that Jones was implicated as an accomplice of Casey in obtaining money from an applicant for release from active duty.

The statement said in addition to the men under arrest there was also implicated certain civilians who had both paid and received money in connection with the enrollment of persons in the naval reserve force. It was added that there also was some evidence that other officers and men in the naval service were involved, but that this evidence was not deemed sufficient to justify their arrest at this time.

UNIT OF 80TH DIVISION HAS SAILED FROM FRANCE

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 27.—The first unit of the 80th division, composed of Tennessee, North and South Carolina guardsmen, is en route from Brest, France, to Newport News, Va. Colonel Lawrence C. Brown, of the southeastern department of the army, announced here.

The entire division, the war department recently announced, has been listed for early return home, but no information could be obtained here as to when the other units would start.

GERMANS MUST STOP DRIVE AGAINST POLES

Armistice Terms Forbid Offensive Movement—Troops Must Not Cross Russian Frontier.

Treves, Feb. 20.—Under the new terms for the renewal of the armistice, as presented to the Germans by Marshal Foch, Germany must abandon all offensive movements against the Poles and also must prohibit her troops from crossing the Russian frontier at a certain line.

The line of demarcation between Germany and Poland is outlined as follows: East of Grosser Neudorf, (southeast of Bromberg), south of Labischin, south of Schodziezen, north of Exin, (southeast of Bromberg), south of Sann, north of Czarnikau (east of Krutuz), west of Birnbaum and Bentschen, (west of Posen), Pollstein, Lissa and north of Wiernzow and thence along the frontier between Silesia and Poland. (This line of demarcation gives to Poland a considerable part of German Posen.)

It was provided by the allied terms that the armistice must be renewed for an indefinite period with a fixed delay of three days for the denunciation of it. The old terms of the armistice are to be carried out completely by Germany.

BLACK WANTS ARMY READY AT ALL TIMES

Urges Congress to Give Authority for Options on Materials Needed in Emergency.

Washington, Feb. 24.—In urging that congress give authority for the army to take options on materials which might be needed in an emergency, Major General Black, chief of the engineer corps, disclosed before the senate military affairs subcommittee that preparations for the possibility of extensive operations in Mexico were being made just prior to the declaration of war on Germany.

"You don't expect any trouble during the next fiscal year do you?" asked Senator Hitchcock.

"I'm no prophet," replied the general, "but in case there were any such a provision would save the country money."

Plans of the war department contemplate demobilization over a period extending as late as July, 1920, Brigadier General Marshall of the construction division told the committee.

Both Republican and Democratic senators protested against "excessive estimates" in the army bill, and Senator Hitchcock said the country was demanding a reduction in expenditures to a normal basis.

IRISH DELEGATE SHOWS UP AT THE CONFERENCE

Accredited Envoy of "Government of the Irish Republic" Is in Paris.

Paris, Feb. 27.—Sean O'Cealligh presented himself to the peace conference as the "accredited envoy of the provisional government of the Irish republic."

O'Cealligh has sent to Premier Clemenceau, to Paul Duta, secretary general of the peace conference, and to each delegate a letter in which he brings to their notice the claim of his government, in the name of the Irish nation for international recognition of the independence of Ireland as a constituent member of the league of nations.

This communication was accompanied in each case by copies of the Irish declaration of independence of January 21, and of the message greetings from the nation of Ireland to the rest of the world.

In his letter O'Cealligh states that Professor de Valera, Arthur Griffith and Count Plunkett have been delegated by the national assembly to present a statement to the peace conference and to the league of nations in the name of the Irish people. He asks a date be fixed for the reception of these men.

Ever since it was declared the Irish would send delegates to the peace conference it has been generally understood here that their credentials would come before the committee on credentials in the same manner as those of any other persons applying for recognition.

FARMERS' MEETING LARGELY ATTENDED

Pledges for Acreage Reduction Liberally Signed at Meeting Here Today.

INTERESTING ADDRESSES

Rev. Mr. Murchison, R. S. Stewart, County Agent Graeber and Others Make Talks on Diversified Farming.

"Diversification" was the ruling theme at the meeting of farmers, merchants, bankers and business men held in the court house today beginning at 11 o'clock and lasting for about two hours. The meeting was held in response to the proclamation of Governor Cooper setting apart the day as "Pledge Reduction Day," and it was attended by about two hundred farmers from different parts of the county and many business and professional men of this city and other towns in the county.

The first speaker was Rev. Hugh R. Murchison, pastor of the Presbyterian church and a member of the state council of defense, who made an interesting address. Mr. Murchison said his farming experience was limited but that he had visited every county in the state as a member of the state council of defense and had talked to farmers about the cotton situation. He said that he had lived in several different sections of South Carolina and that he knew the state and the state's needs, and that the farmer held the cotton situation in his own hands.

Mayor R. S. Stewart was the next speaker and he gave a plain, matter-of-fact statement of the farmer's actions in the past relative to cotton acreage reduction and told the farmers that they heretofore agreed to reduce but left it up to the other fellow to do the reducing. He said this campaign would be unavailing unless the farmer signs the pledge and lives up to the obligation he takes when signing it.

County Agent R. W. Graeber followed Mr. Stewart and made a talk on "Safe Farming" in which he gave some facts of interest to the farmer in the matter of diversification and cotton reduction.

J. E. Craig and J. M. Yoder were the only farmers who spoke. Both of these men are believers in the diversification idea and are practicing it.

The farmers in attendance upon the meeting showed great interest in the matter and the indications are that Lancaster county will show up in the reduction column good and strong.

No business was transacted at the meeting except in the matter of distributing the pledge cards to the different committees from the school districts of the county and giving them instructions for the beginning of the work.

PROPAGANDA TO RETAIN RAIL CONTROL CHARGED

Representative Dyer Declares Sinister Influences Are at Work to Coerce Congressmen.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Representative Dyer, of Missouri, charged in the house that "sinister" efforts were being made to influence members of congress to vote for continued government operation of the railroads under pain of defeat at the polls in the next election.

A widespread propaganda has been started, Mr. Dyer said, adding that the "propagandists" had established headquarters in Washington from which representatives were being "bombarded" with letters setting forth that it would be disastrous to the country to return the roads to private ownership at this time.

Mr. Dyer said signatures for the letters were obtained from men without regard to whether they worked on the railroads. He read several communications which he had received. They stated that he had been elected to congress largely by the votes of railroad employees, and that if he wished to retain his position he should vote for the proposed five year extension of government operation.